

WOODHAM WALTER COMMON

COUNTRYSIDE WALK



CIRCULAR WALK

Long walk with uneven or muddy ground. Walking boots recommended



START
WOODHAM
WALTER



2 HOURS



5.03
MILES



OVERVIEW

This walk starts and finishes in the ancient and attractive village of Woodham Walter. The views across rural Essex are lovely. The terrain is varied, with arable fields, horse paddocks, a nature reserve and woodland.

HOW TO GET HERE

Location for the start of the walk:

The Bell Public House, Woodham Walter
(CM9 6SA)

OS Explorer Map No:

183 (Chelmsford & The Rodings)

OS Grid Reference: TL 808 068

Parking:

Opposite the Bell Public House, Woodham Walter

Public Transport:

Bus No. 5 / 31A Maldon to Chelmsford
(www.traveline.info)

M A L D O N D I S T R I C T



VISITMALDONDISTRICT.CO.UK



TOURISM@MALDON.GOV.UK

Tell us what you think of the walk & send us your photos:



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WOODHAM WALTER COMMON

Woodham Walter Common is a 32-hectare area of woodland and part of a large network of nature reserves which make up the Danbury Ridge Complex. It is mainly secondary woodland with a few open areas where heather grows. There is a network of footpaths here with good links to Danbury, Woodham Walter and Little Baddow. The Common is managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust on behalf of Maldon District Council and Woodham Walter Parish Council.



THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

The church of St Michael the Archangel in Woodham Walter is believed to have been the first purpose-built Anglican church in the country. Built in 1563, five years after the accession of Elizabeth I, this mellow red-brick place of worship is the only Elizabethan church in Essex and one of only six built in Elizabeth's reign. On becoming lord of Woodham Walter Manor, Thomas Fitzwalter, who was an ardent Protestant removed the Catholic priest and replaced him with a Protestant rector, despite the fact that the Catholic Queen Mary was still on the throne. When Queen Elizabeth succeeded her sister, he sought (and obtained) permission to build a new church in a new location to replace the existing building, which had been situated in the grounds of the Manor.

THE BELL PUBLIC HOUSE

The Bell Public House dates to the 14th century. The traditional interior includes an open fire and large fireplace and three dining areas featuring the original exposed beams. The pub has a reputation for good food and up to four ales are usually on offer. Allegedly, it was the home of George Washington's great-great grandfather, when he was rector of Purleigh church in the 1640's.



REFRESHMENTS

THE BELL PUBLIC HOUSE, The Street, Woodham Walter - Tel: 01245 222176

THE QUEEN VICTORIA PUBLIC HOUSE, The Street, Woodham Walter
- Tel: 01245 224101

OLD CHAPEL STORES, Old Chapel Stores, The Street, Woodham Walter

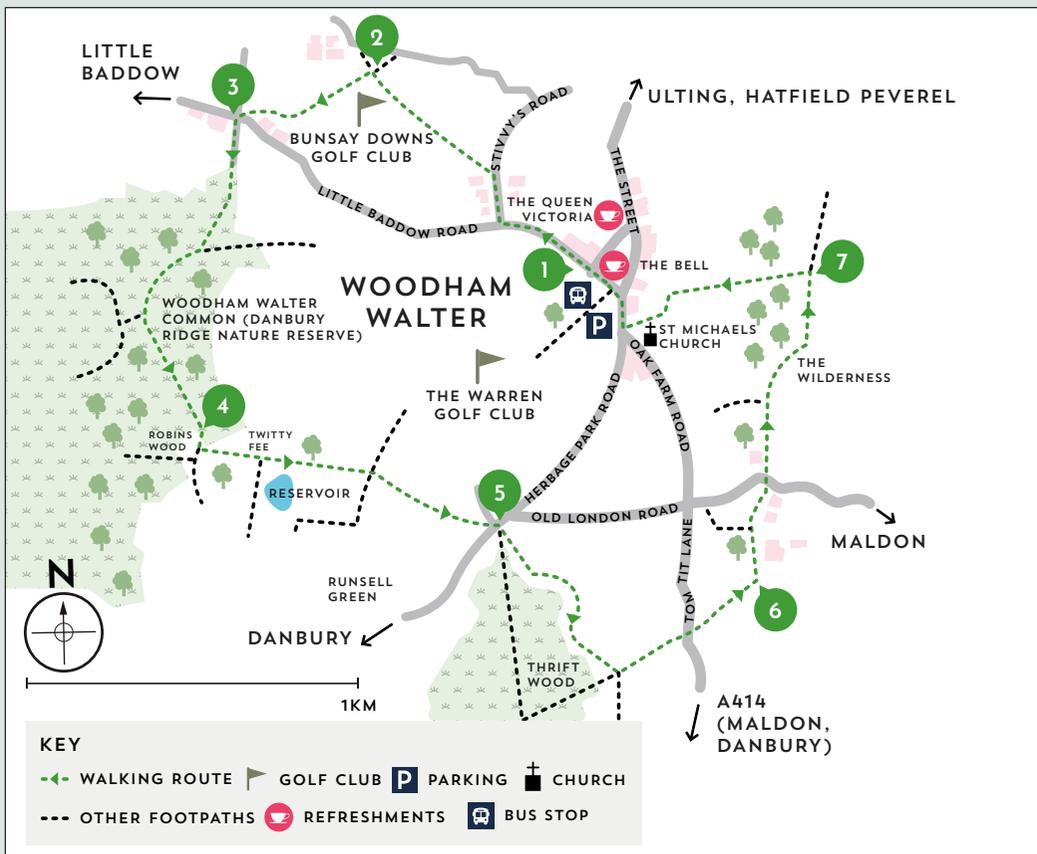
FREDDIES BAR & CAFE, The Warren Estate, Woodham Walter, CM9 6RW - Tel: 01245 223258

USEFUL WEBSITES

ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

www.essexwt.org.uk

This walk was developed by Maldon District Councils, Tourism team & Chris Harvey.



1. Walk away from the Bell Public House towards Little Baddow for about 600 yards then turn right into Stivvy's Road. After 200 yards take the signposted footpath to the left across the field and through the gate into the next field following the waymarkers to the following field edge and a footbridge. Crossing the footbridge, continue across the next field in the same direction until you reach another footbridge in a gap in the hedge opposite. This is half way between the entrance and the telegraph pole in the far-right corner of the field. After crossing this footbridge, you enter a large field full of horse paddocks separated by electric fencing. Continue in the same direction, going through several access gates (please shut all gates after use).
2. In the last paddock before reaching the lane and West Bowers Farm, look out for the gate about 40 yards to the left of the silos. Go through the gate, crossing the farm track into the next field (through another gate). This field contains more paddocks. Work your way between them heading directly to the next exit point. After the last paddock, walk through a small piece of scrubland and look for a stile on your right. Crossing this stile, the path takes you onto a mown area adjacent to a house (it is a public right of way).
3. Keeping close to the hedge, cross the field and go over the stile about 10 yards to the left of the 5-barred gate. Cross over the road junction past the triangular green and follow the bridleway on the left by the sign for Spring Elms Lane. Head along the bridleway towards Woodham Walter Common. The path soon enters woodland and the route bears slightly to the right. After about 250 yards the bridleway takes a sharp left turn, at this point take the footpath straight ahead. At a T-junction near the top of the hill and at a way marker, turn right for 50 yards. The path splits here, take the left path until you come to a small heathland with good views across a small wooded valley.
4. Continue on this path as it goes downhill towards a stream. At the stream there are several bridges. Take the route using one of the two wooden bridges across the stream and go right, then left, up the slope. Keep on the main path until you exit the woods and the nature reserve by Robins Wood, at the end of the "Twitty Fee" track. Cross the track taking the footpath opposite, which runs alongside The Warren golf course. Continue along this path until you reach the road (Herbage Park Road). Cross the road and take the footpath opposite, next to a 5-barred gate. After about 50 yards the footpath divides.
5. Ignore the left path (which goes through a gap in the fence) and continue ahead on the path into 'Thrift Wood'. After 600 yards, you will reach a footpath junction just before a footbridge crossing a stream. Turn left onto this path and continue on it, leaving the woods along the lower right-hand edge of the field. Staying on this path, you will shortly arrive at a lane (Tom Tit Lane). Cross the lane, you will see the next footpath going through a hedge into a field. Follow the path around the field edge. Just after the path turns to the right there is a gap in the hedge on your left. Follow the path through the hedge, you will see trees and a stream to your left for a short stretch.
6. Shortly after this you will come to a track to the left, leading to a farm. The path goes through the farmyard keeping to the left of the buildings. As you exit the farmyard head down the access road to a small lane. Cross the lane to the footpath opposite. Walk along the permissive footpath (on the field edge, to the right of the track running past two cottages). 100 yards after the cottages the waymarked path heads into a wooded valley. You soon emerge from the woodland to walk along the field edge. After 100 yards the tree line pushes the path to the right and then suddenly drops away; continue straight on into the field, following the direction of the footpath sign. Head along the cross-field track. There are few trees here but look for a clump of small trees close together on your left. Turn left onto the footbridge in the centre of these trees.
7. This cross-field path takes you towards another small piece of woodland. Follow the path straight through the woods and out the other side, then keep on the rough grass dividing two fields; heading towards a telegraph pole. From here you can see St Michael's church, make for the gate at the rear of the churchyard and walk through the churchyard to the front. Turn right down the hill and back to the starting point of the walk.

